

# MATRIX

April 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE SANMAR GROUP

*Sanmar – Cricket in its DNA*



# The Sanmar Group

Sanmar Holdings Ltd

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd

TCI Sanmar Chemicals S.A.E.

Sanmar Speciality Chemicals Ltd

Sanmar Consolidations Ltd

Sanmar Shipping Ltd

Cabot Sanmar Ltd

Sanmar Engineering Technologies Ltd

- *Products Divn.*

Flowserve Sanmar Ltd

BS&B Safety Systems (India) Ltd

Sanmar Engineering Services Ltd

Xomox Sanmar Ltd

Xomox Valves Divn.

Pacific Valves Divn.

Tyco Sanmar Ltd

- *Steel Castings Divn.*

Sanmar Foundries Ltd

Matrix Metals LLC



9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086.

Tel.: + 91 44 2812 8500

Fax: + 91 44 2811 1902

# In this issue...



## Cricketing Sanmar

4 | Sanmar – Cricket in its DNA

6 | A prime force in Tamil Nadu cricket - Partab Ramchand

8 | Sanmar and cricket — through the decades

13 | Catch 'em young... and groom 'em

14 | The MG Kailis-Chemplast Trophy

15 | Proud to be associated with Jolly Rovers - K Balaji

16 | Chemplast Cricket Team - Airtel - BCCI Corporate Tournament Winner 2012 - 2013

17 | Jolly Rovers Cricket Team - TNCA Palayampatti Shield Winner 2012 - 2013

19 | Vijay topscores against Australia  
Sanmar cricket facts

20 | 'Sanmar produces good cricketers, good people'. - Saad bin Jung

21 | Rovers, a jolly good Chennai team (*Deccan Chronicle*, dated 13 Feb 2013)

## Global Sanmar

22 | Egyptian President attends formation of India-Egypt Business Council:  
Vijay Sankar appointed Chairman

23 | TCI Sanmar and Govt of Egypt sign MoU  
Plastic Park in Egypt

## Safety

24 | It's Safety Day across Sanmar locations

## Beyond Sanmar

26 | Donation for ophthalmic research

27 | Chemplast's CSR activities at Vedaranyam

28 | Medical camp at Mettur

29 | Pulse Polio programme at Mettur  
Tailoring training for women

## Legends from the South

30 | CP Johnstone

Matrix can be viewed at [www.sanmargroup.com](http://www.sanmargroup.com)

Designed and edited by Kalamkriya Limited, 9, Cathedral Road, Chennai 600 086. Ph: + 91 44 2812 8051/ 52

For Private Circulation Only.

# Sanmar – Cricket in its DNA

The 2012-2013 cricket season has been a triumphant one for The Sanmar Group, for the Chemplast cricket team won a major national level title when it defeated India Cements in the final of the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) all-India Corporate Trophy.

This was the crowning glory of the season, after Jolly Rovers beat Vijay CC to emerge victorious in the TNCA first division league for the Palayampatti shield.

It was a superb team effort, though highlighted by brilliant individual performance by the likes of all rounder Piyush Chawla, M Vijay, R Sathish, skipper C Hemant Kumar, Napoleon Einstein, Nilesh Subramaniam, Anand Subramanian, M Prabha and Prashanth K Varma.

Jolly Rovers, Alwarpet Cricket Club and Chemplast Sanmar are the names of the Sanmar-sponsored teams participating in various tournaments in India. Among the players representing these teams, M Vijay and Piyush Chawla have recently made comebacks into the Indian squad.

For Sanmar, supporters of the game in the city for nearly five decades, cricket has been a way of life since the time the late Chairman Emeritus KS Narayanan was instrumental in India Cements taking Jolly Rovers under its wing in the 1966-67 season of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association league. Jolly Rovers won the first division league in the very same season.

PK Belliappa, the captain of that star-studded team (see group

## Sanmar's magnificent obsession: A record five decades in cricket promotion

Chennai is an important cricket centre where business houses and banks have played a major role in supporting the game by offering stable careers and excellent facilities to cricketers, but Sanmar has been the only corporate group in India to consistently promote cricket and cricketers for well nigh fifty years, starting with Jai Hind CC and Jolly Rovers in the 1960s. Besides Jolly Rovers, Alwarpet Cricket Club is the second team at present supported by Sanmar, assuring some 40 cricketers and support staff fulfilling professional careers.

photograph on page 6) once told *Matrix* how personal and caring KSN's involvement in the team was.

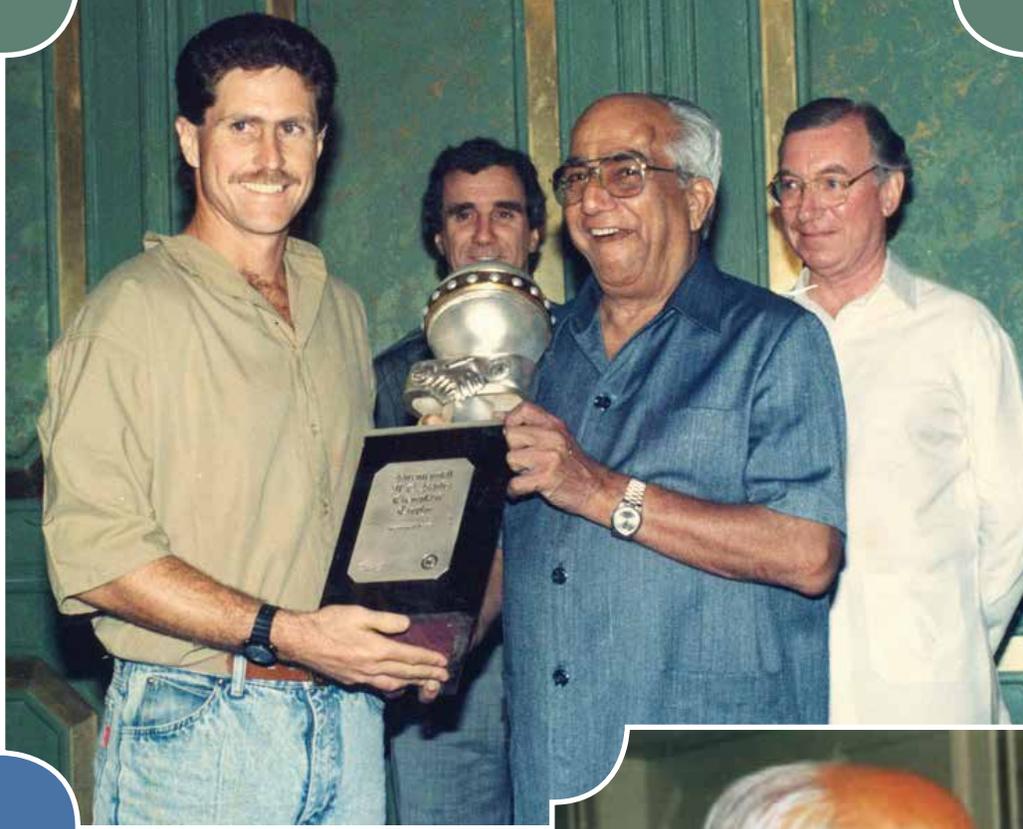
KSN was a constant and inspiring presence in the matches the Sanmar teams played in the 1960s, as were Sankar and Kumar in later years. Fast bowler B Kalyanasundaram remembers how KSN found him in the office one morning and not at the cricket ground, nursing an injury in his left hand. "You bowl with your right arm. You can surely play today," KSN told him and packed him off to the ground where Jolly Rovers was playing a match. Kalyanasundaram played a stellar role in the team's win that day.

KSN it was who pioneered the idea of scouting for talent outside the state of Tamil Nadu. Among such "imports" that made the Jolly Rovers of the 1960s a star-studded outfit were brilliant cricketers like KR Rajagopal and Najam Hussain of Bangalore, not to mention such dedicated specialists as KVR Murthy, and V Balaji Rao, each of whom brought a special skill and match-turning ability to the team.

And KSN not only had the knack of talent-spotting, but was a great motivator of men as well. To quote Belliappa again, "We knew we enjoyed the confidence of the management and always stepped on the field in a positive frame of mind. We attracted the best of talent, too and it all made for a winning combination."

"We always had the best of gear in our playing days. KS Narayanan would personally bring us Gunn & Moore, Gray Nicolls or Autograph bats (the best known brands then, not easily available in India)."

Not only has Sanmar treated cricketers with care and concern for their future, compensating them well for their efforts on the field, the Group has ensured that the players enjoy the best facilities. With its lush green outfield and a red-bricked English village type dressing room, dedicated by Australian Test great, Neil Harvey, the IIT-Sanmar ground is Chennai cricket's pride.



*Graeme Wood, captain of the Western Australia cricket team with KS Narayanan during the match versus Tamil Nadu for the MG Kailis – Chemplast Trophy (1989).*



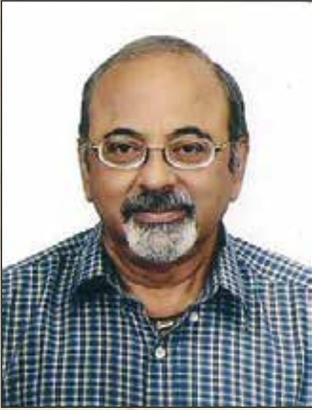
*KS Narayanan with Neil Harvey who dedicated The Sanmar Pavilion at the IIT-Sanmar cricket ground (1998).*



*KS Narayanan with Steve Waugh, brand ambassador, AMP Sanmar Life Insurance (2002).*

# A prime force in

## - Partab Ramchand



There can be little doubt that over the last half a century Jolly Rovers has been the dominant side in Tamil Nadu cricket. The class of players who have represented the team, the trophies they have won over the years and the interest their sponsors have shown in promoting the game in various ways has been for many years part of cricketing folklore in the state. Think of Tamil Nadu cricket and inevitably the name that springs to mind is Jolly Rovers. A crack outfit, they have been the most feared and respected opponents in Chennai that was Madras. Moreover they have held aloft the banner of Tamil Nadu when battling it out with top outstation teams in various tournaments around the country.

The sheer professional approach of the players ensures that no competition is taken lightly and the surfeit of cricket competitions in recent years has not dampened their attitude. This professionalism has always helped the players to endure as a strong team in a game where so many teams unable to sustain the high standards fade away after a bright start. The superb all round skills of the players has made Jolly Rovers the champion in all types of cricket – “instant cricket” like the Hindu Trophy and the Calcutta T-20 tournament, the senior division league games which have been played over one, two and three days and various competitions like the Buchi Babu Trophy, KSCA Trophy and Moin-ud-Dowla which are played over three days.

What makes Jolly Rovers tick? What has made them the leading cricketing outfit in Tamil Nadu? What continues to make Jolly Rovers the most attractive team to promising youngsters? By far the most important reason has been the sponsorship of the parent company, be it India Cements, Chemplast or The Sanmar Group. Over three generations from KS Narayanan to N Sankar to Vijay Sankar the company has been fortunate to have people at the helm whose interest in sport is intense and who have had a far sighted approach. Moreover they have kept pace with changing times. Not only has Sanmar treated its cricketers with care and concern for their future, compensating them well for their efforts on the field, the Group has ensured that the players enjoy the best facilities.

But The Sanmar Group’s backing of their cricket team has not been their only contribution to the game in the state. Having encouraged the growth of a good team that formed the nucleus of the state side the company in the 1980s sponsored the Chemplast – Pasadena tournament with three day matches which helped the batsman to become “stayers”. The Chemplast – Pasadena tournament was credited as being one of the reasons why Tamil Nadu won the Ranji Trophy in 1987-88, regaining it after 33 years. Around this time the company co-sponsored a series of games between Tamil Nadu and Western Australia. The other sponsor of the series was the

# Tamil Nadu cricket

MG Kailis group of companies in Western Australia. As luck would have it both emerged winners of their respective domestic competitions that year and the Kailis - Chemplast trophy had the status of an official Australian Bicentenary event. Played for two years, first at Perth and then at Chennai it provided good international exposure for the Tamil Nadu cricketers.

The Sanmar Group has also spared no effort to send the Jolly Rovers team to participate in tournaments outside the state. That you must play against the best to improve has always been the company's cricketing credo. The list of trophies won by Jolly Rovers in various competitions is testimony to the superb all round skills and professional approach of the players. The company has also sponsored cricketers' trips to England more than once as a reward for the team's fine performance over the years.

Aware of the importance of turf wickets, The Sanmar Group was the first to sponsor a pitch – at the University Union ground – in the 80s. But its most important contribution in this aspect has been the scenic ground at the IIT. It has earned praise from international cricketers and the Sanmar Pavilion, a lovely old-English style structure, was inaugurated by Neil Harvey, one of Australia's greatest ever batsmen. With its lush green outfield and red bricked dressing room, the IIT Sanmar ground is the pride of Chennai cricket.

A significant phase in The Sanmar Group's cricketing growth commenced in 1982 when former Test stumper Bharath Reddy joined the company. The team's fortunes soared and the number of trophies it won increased. Having played cricket the world over while travelling with Indian teams Reddy was quick to sense the changing face of the game. It was no more a genteel game played in a leisurely way on weekends. Cricketers were now required to be professional in their attitude willing to play every day if need be - for a price. Reddy roped in the best players, offering them terms, incentives and allowances that could not have been dreamt of a decade earlier.

The southern metropolis has been the home of ardent corporate support of the game for half a century and The Sanmar Group has been in the forefront of cricket sponsorship for almost all that time. It is a unique model of sports patronage with

many sides to it. Sanmar helps young cricketers through school and college, conducts tournaments for them and provides adult cricketers employment or professional cricket contracts. Through it all The Sanmar Group's performances in domestic competitions has been of a consistently high quality. The late Chairman Emeritus KS Narayanan, chairman N Sankar, vice chairman N Kumar and deputy chairman Vijay Sankar represent three generations of a cricket loving family. The players and teams they have nurtured have done them proud. Sankar in fact has been president of both the TNCA and the MCC.

*(Partab Ramchand is a veteran sports journalist and author of several books).*



# Sanmar and cricket



*The Jolly Rovers 1966-67:  
(L to R) standing: KR Rajagopal, V Balaji Rao, AK Vijayaraghavan, K Bharadwaj, P Sampath, George Thomas, PS Narayanan; seated: S Venkataraghavan, PK Belliappa, A Ananthanarayanan, KVR Murthy, K Ramamurthy.*

The Chemplast-Pasadena trophy was a major initiative to improve the standard of Tamil Nadu cricket launched by Sanmar and the Pasadena group of the USA.

*Bharath Reddy receives the Chemplast-Pasadena winner's trophy (1988) from KS Narayanan, Chairman, Chemplast. Shankar Ramani, Pasadena group, the USA, and S Venkataraghavan look on.*

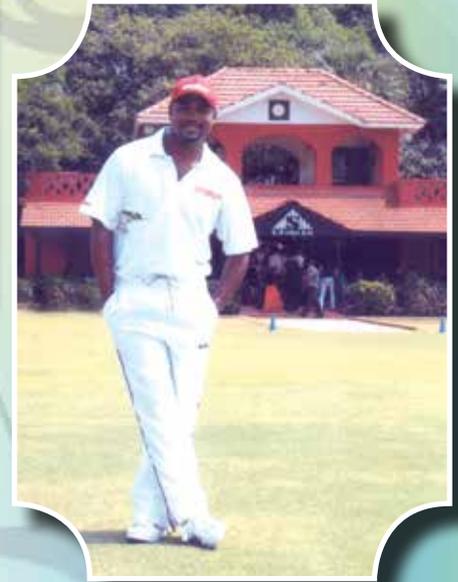


*Chemplast Recreation Club-three time winners of the Chemplast Trophy (1990). (originally the Chemplast-Pasadena Trophy).*

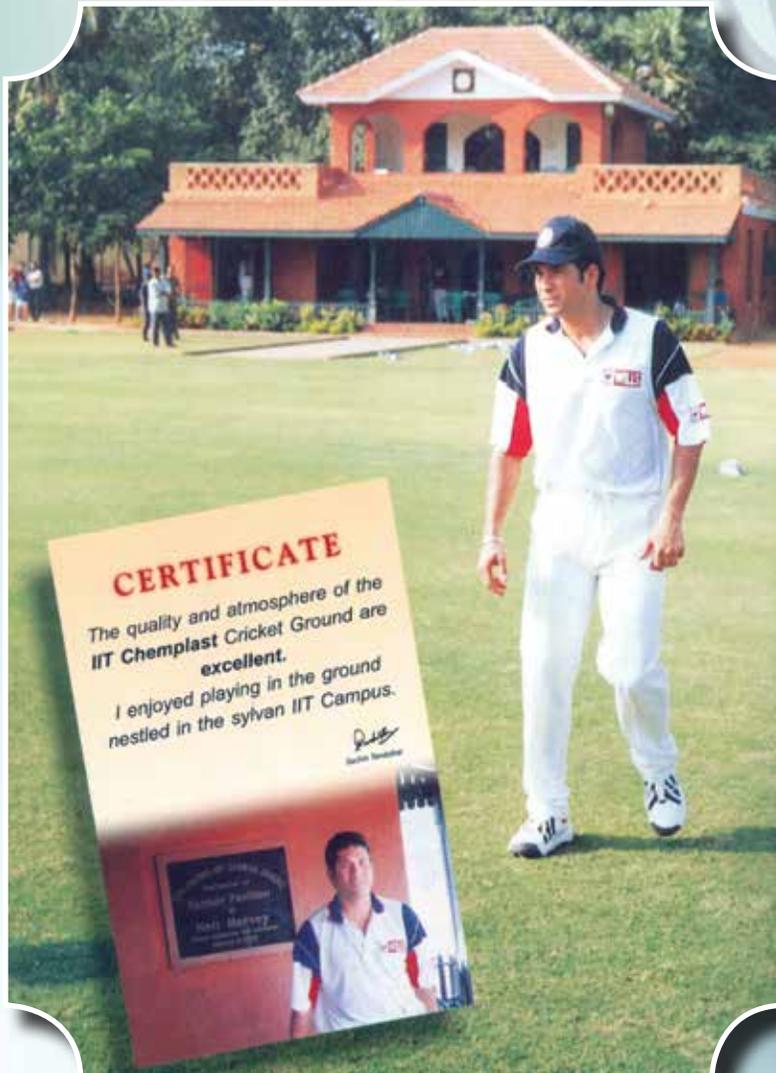
# — through the decades



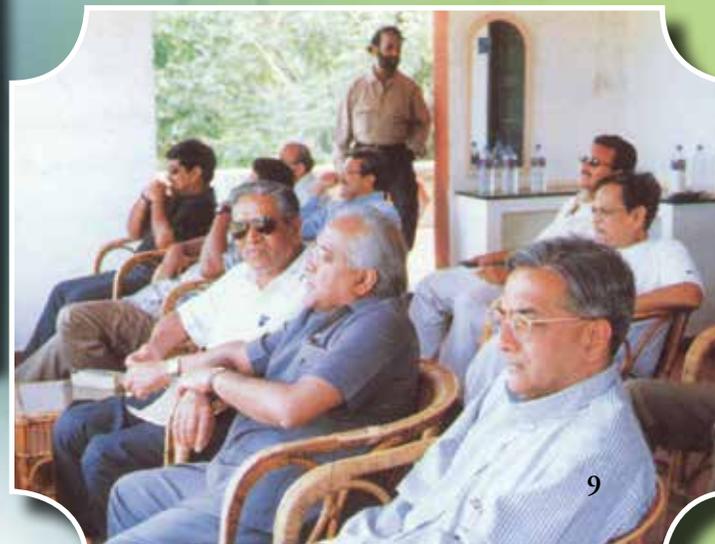
Neil Harvey dedicating the Sanmar Pavilion at the IIT-Chemplast Sanmar cricket ground on 5 March 1998.



The IIT-Sanmar cricket ground has played host to some of the world's leading cricket personalities from time to time. Seen here is Brian Lara, one of the greatest batsmen in the world and captain of the West Indies cricket team (2006).



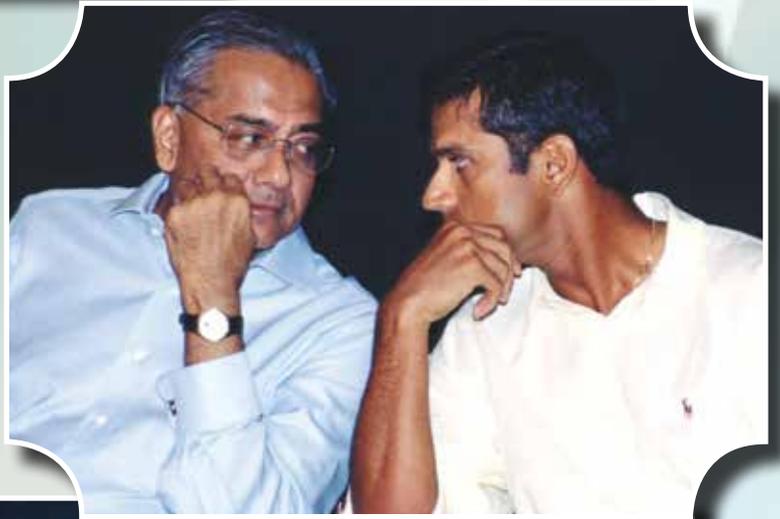
Chandu Borde, (dark glasses) Chairman, National Selection Committee, and N Sankar flanking AC Muthiah, President BCCI, at the IIT-Sanmar pavilion (2000).



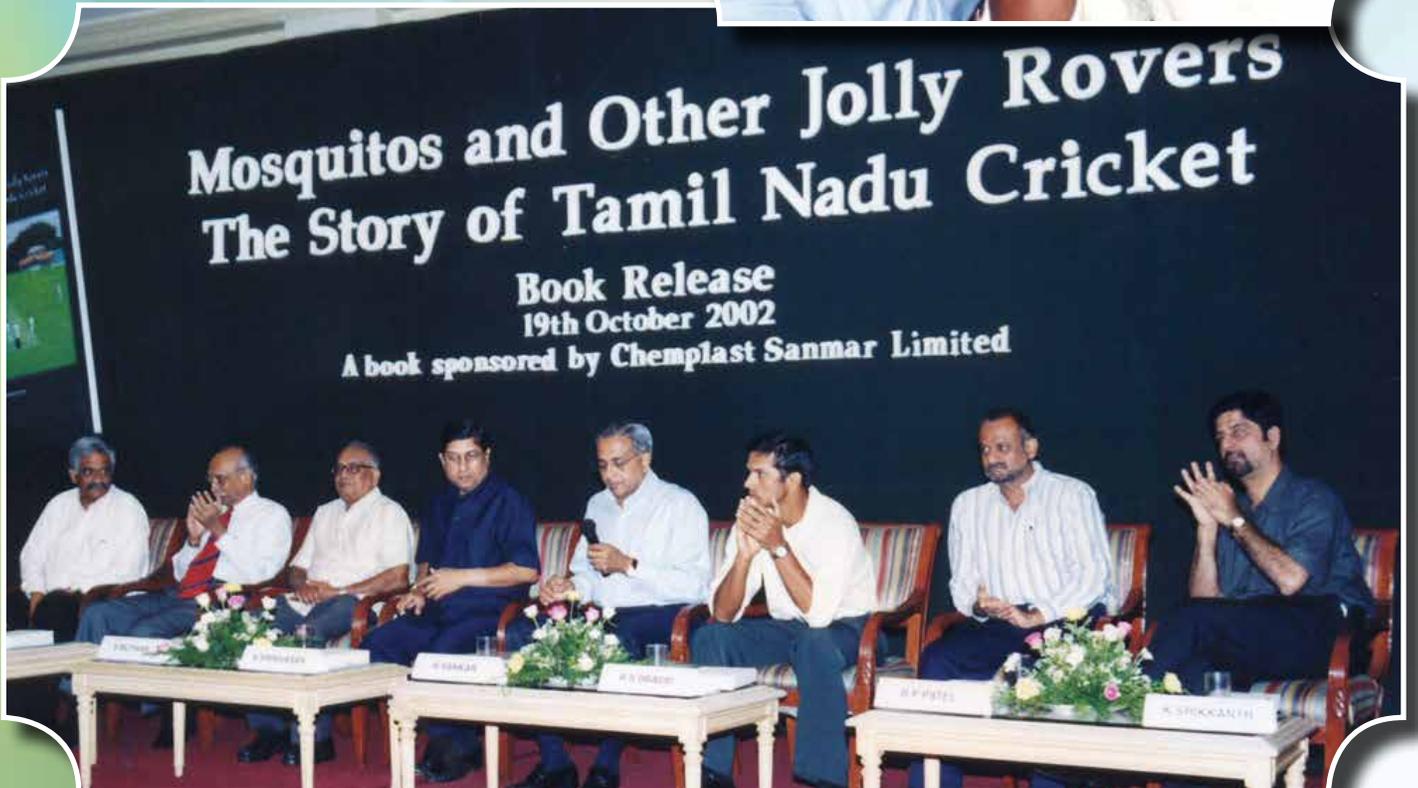


*RKM Vivekananda College, winners of the KS Narayanan Inter Collegiate Cricket Tournament (2001), at the IIT-Chemplast cricket ground.*

*N Sankar and Rahul Dravid enjoying a light hearted moment at the book launch (2002).*

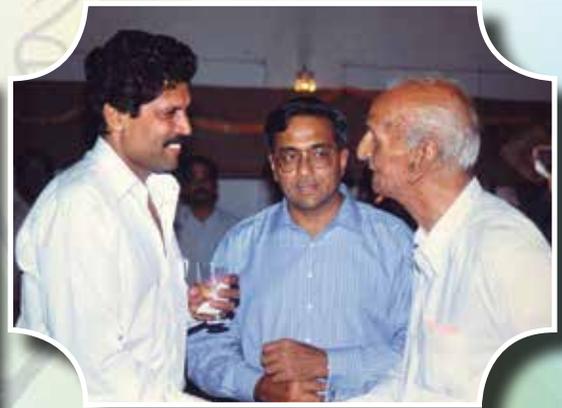


*At the launch of the book on Tamil Nadu cricket (2002). (L to R): V Ramnarayan, CD Gopinath, S Muthiah, N Srinivasan, N Sankar, Rahul Dravid, Brijesh Patel and K Srikanth.*





*Kapil Dev being felicitated on breaking Sir Richard Hadlee's record of 431 Test wickets.*



*Kapil Dev, N Sankar and MJ Gopalan.*

*The Chemplast team that won the Canara Bank centenary at Bangalore (2005).  
(L to R): Petson Mathews, A Avinash, S Badrinath, S Vasanth Saravanan, Hemang K Badani, V Subramania Siva, S Sujith, R Ram Kumar, Ajay Kudua, JP Yadav, R Sathish, D Vasu, R Jesuraj and Abdul Jabbar.  
Sitting: K Ram Mohan Rao.*



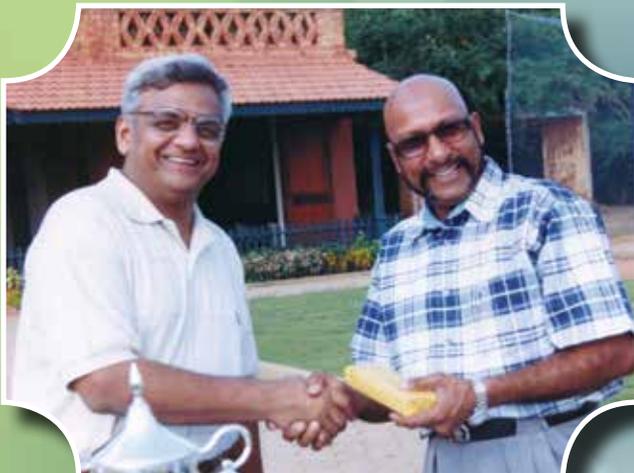
*The Chemplast team poses here with The Hindu Trophy (2006).*



*Former India captain Ajit Wadekar with N Sankar (1995).*



*(L to R): Vijay Sankar, N Sankar, and N Kumar with Steve Waugh (2002).*



*N Kumar with Syed Kirmani, Indian Test wicket keeper at the IIT-Sanmar cricket ground (2000).*

# Catch 'em young... and groom 'em

Sanmar's unusual success rate in cricket competitions and the regularity of its discoveries going on to don national colours unsurprisingly point to a healthy talent-spotting and grooming process systematised by the Group.

One man has been responsible over the last three decades for translating the top management's agenda in this aspect into action: Bharath Reddy, former India wicketkeeper and Jolly Rovers captain, who as a vice-president in Chemplast oversees cricket affairs in Sanmar.

Bharath, known even in his playing days for his man-management skills as well as his capacity for recognising genuine cricketing ability, has been helped by these very qualities to effect a seamless transition to his present role. He is able to identify players who will fit into the Sanmar mould and go on to contribute to its teams' success for a reasonable period of time. "My job is to spot talent, and I think I have a good eye for it, and make all the best facilities available for their growth and development. Thanks to Sanmar's readiness to invest in our cricket infrastructure, we have the best coaches, trainers, net practice and

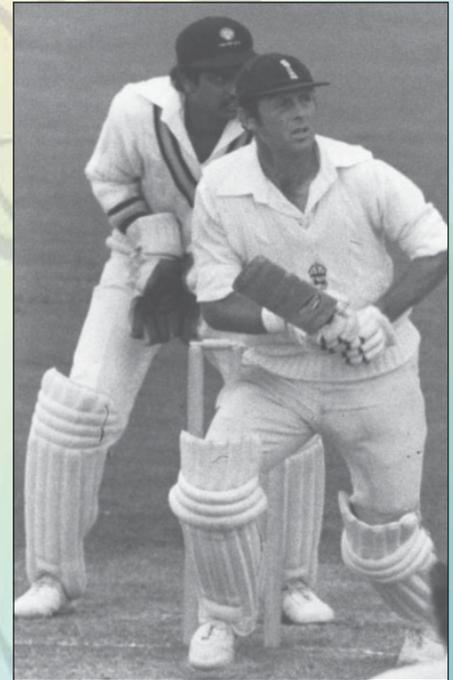
*Bharath Reddy taking a diving catch of Mumbai's Atul Mankad.*



training facilities, including different types of wickets and bowling machines. When I come across a good prospect, I invite him to our nets and take a good look at him for a couple of days. Once I find him good, I turn him over to our physio Shyam Sundar—one of the best in the country and engaged by Mumbai Indians—who analyses the player's physique and then hands him to our trainer Dhanasekharan, again one of the best in the country. Our cricket coach Jaykumar is responsible for the development of our recruits into fine cricketers. Test opener M Vijay is one such player.

"In addition to our own coaches, I also invite experts to help out with some of our boys with specific requirements. I have thus utilised the services of veteran spinners VV Kumar, S Vasudevan and V Ramnarayan on occasion to guide our spin bowlers, even making available video recordings of the bowlers to the experts".

The list of cricketers spotted by Bharath at the early stages of their careers reads like a Who's Who of Indian cricket. M Vijay who amassed the highest aggregate of runs for India recently against Australia is a prime example.



*Bharath is seen here with Geoff Boycott during a Test match in England.*

TA Sekar, VB Chandrasekhar, L Sivaramakrishnan, B Arun, D Vasu, Sunil Subramanian, L Balaji, S Badrinath, Ajay Kudua, R Ashwin, and Sandeep Sharma (one of the bright fast bowling prospects in India today) are some of the Sanmar discoveries to go on to great heights. Incredibly, Bharath spotted Test offspinner Harbhajan Singh after a single viewing in the Buchi Babu tournament years ago, and so was Harvinder Singh, a pace bowler who went on to represent India. Dinesh Karthik was only 11, when Bharath took him on a tour of England with other promising cricketers. The Sanmar boys will soon be touring England to gain exposure to international standards of cricket. "This is also an opportunity for the youngsters to learn how to conduct themselves overseas," says Bharath. "This is good preparation for their future international careers."

# The MG Kailis-Chemplast Trophy

March 1988 was a momentous month in the history of Tamil Nadu cricket. The state team won the Ranji Trophy for the national championship after a lapse of 34 years. That season, Western Australia had annexed the Sheffield Shield, to win the Australian national cricket competition.

Inspired by the possibility of the two national champions locking horns to decide the better team between them, N Sankar mooted the idea of an annual contest between them to MG Kailis an Australian friend who headed the MG Kailis Group.

The result was the MG Kailis-Chemplast Trophy.

The inaugural edition of the trophy took place in Perth, Western

Australia, and Western Australia emerged triumphant, while the return fixture next year at Chepauk ended in a draw without an innings being completed. The championship was therefore retained by the visitors. The magnificent trophy adorns the WACA pavilion.

The tournament provided huge exposure for the young cricketers in each of the two teams to the conditions obtaining in the host country. The Tamil Nadu cricketers were especially fortunate to play against international players at a time when such opportunities were few and far between.

For The Sanmar Group, and its Chairman, it has been an earnest



*The Bicentennial  
MG Kailis-Chemplast Trophy.*

desire to continue to make the MG Kailis-Chemplast Trophy a permanent annual fixture, but despite several attempts to revive it, many difficulties have so far stood in the way of the revival.



*MG Kailis (centre) and N Sankar  
(extreme right) seen with the trophy.*

# Proud to be associated with Jolly Rovers

- K Balaji

The string of trophies and titles under the Jolly Rovers or Chemplast banner – the most recent being the BCCI Corporate Trophy earlier this year – won in different formats of the game and in diverse conditions make for an impressive record. The statistics quite clearly show how successful Jolly Rovers has been as a cricket club. They don't however reveal the role the club has played over the decades in improving the lot of the humble Madras/Chennai league cricketer. Under the late KS Narayanan and his son N Sankar, the status of the club cricketer was raised from that of a mere company employee to that of a valuable resource. What set them apart from the other patrons of the sport were the professionalism and consistency that KSN and Sankar brought to seeking out cricketing talent and nurturing it. In accomplishing this Sankar found Bharath Reddy a reliable "lieutenant" with a keen eye for talent-spotting. A great many Chennai cricketers owe a great deal to Bharath for the opportunities that Jolly Rovers (and as a consequence other clubs) presented them.

When writing about Jolly Rovers I find it impossible to resist the temptation to recall my own connections with the club. My uncle, the late S Rangarajan, "ran" the club for a few years in the 1960s. As a schoolboy I used to avidly watch the club's practice sessions in the Farm House nets. And why not, if one could watch Salim Durrani (the club's "import") at close quarters! What's more, I even played for Jolly Rovers when I had not yet reached my teens.

Much against my father's wishes my uncle insisted on drafting me in. The match was against Nungambakkam Cricket Club on the Vivekananda College Ground. Jolly Rovers won easily. I was not required to bat, but much to surprise all round I managed to cling on to a mis-hit at point. I heard later that the batsman had quite confidently predicted that the kid would drop it.

As the official "scorer" for the club, I have witnessed several thrilling matches. None better than the encounter with State Bank of India A on the Marina Ground in the season of 1964-65. Jolly Rovers made 76 and State Bank 75 of which Habib Ahmed made 39.

After stints with Bunts and MCC, I played for Jolly Rovers under the captaincy of M Sriram in the seasons of 1979-80 and 1980-81. Midway through the latter season we were very much in contention for the



top spot but our performance faded away in the second half. Whether we were doing well or badly, Sankar was always there to watch, from the shade at the University Union.

I am proud to have been associated with the club and I wish Jolly Rovers and its administrators many more years of yeoman service to this great game of cricket.

*(K Balaji is Managing Director, Kasturi & Sons, publishers of The Hindu, and a former Ranji Trophy player).*



*K Balaji addressing the gathering on the occasion of Alwarpet Cricket Club reunion on 10 November 2012.*

# Chemplast Cricket Team - Airtel - BCCI Corporate Tournament Winner 2012 - 2013



# Jolly Rovers Cricket Team - TNCA Palayampatti Shield Winner 2012 - 2013



Standing (from left): S Arun (scorer), N Einstein, Shyam Sunder (physio), Suthesh, M Prabhu, S Anand, Prashanth Parameswaran, J Koushik, Gowjith, Prashanth Varma, KH Gopinath, Vasanth (physio), Ashwin, Ram Mohan (Manager), Srinam (Analyst) Sitting (from left): Tinu Yohanan (bowling coach), Jayakumar (coach), Piyush Chawla, Jesuraj, R Satish, C Hemant Kumar (Captain), Vijay Sankar (Deputy Chairman - The Sanmar Group), Bharath Reddy (Head - Cricket Operations), M Vijay, Syed Mohammed, Ajay Kudua (assistant coach). Kneeling (from left): S Nilesb, S Prabhu, Francis Rokins, Giripal, Dinesh (assistant trainer), Chandrasekar.



Trophy/ Tournament	No. of Titles
Palayampatti Shield	17 (5 times in a row from 2000-2006)
VAP Trophy	5 (In 8 years)
Moin-ud-Dowla Trophy	6
KSCA Trophy	3
Corporate Trophy (BCCI)	1 (February 2013)
Hindu Trophy (MCA)	8
Corporate Trophy (MCA)	1
Buchi Babu Trophy	3
Canara Bank Centenary	1
Calcutta T20 Tournament	1
YSCA Trophy	2
Arlem Trophy	2

**Sanmar cricketers who have played for India**

- B Arun
- Bharath Reddy
- V B Chandrasekar
- Harbhajan Singh
- Harvinder Singh
- Hemang Badani
- A Kumble
- S Ramesh
- Robin Singh
- T A Sekar
- T E Srinivasan
- Sujith Somasundar
- L Sivaramakrishnan
- S Venkataraghavan
- M Venkataramana
- T Yohanar
- Dinesh Mongia
- L Balaji
- K K Dinesh Karthik
- S Badrinath
- R Ashwin
- Murali Vijay
- Piyush Chawla





## Vijay topscores against Australia

Jolly Rovers' opening batsman M Vijay recently hit the headlines with his spectacular batting against the touring Australians, aggregating 430 runs (avg. 61.42) in the 4-Test series and playing a major role in India's success. Vijay has been a constant in Jolly Rovers' and Chemplast's successes in cricket for well over seven seasons. An attacking right-handed batsman, Vijay has proved himself at the highest level, scoring three Test hundreds against Australia, the last two as part of a fighting comeback after the crack pair of Virender Sehwag and Gautum Gambhir kept him out for many years. Vijay has also been a grand success in the IPL.

## Sanmar cricket facts

The Sanmar cricket team has been one of the strongest and most long lasting outfits in Tamil Nadu, winning the TNCA senior league 18 times since 1964-65, and the popular Hindu Trophy limited overs tournament 8 times since 1981-82. It has also won all India cricket tournaments like the Arlem Trophy, Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Trophy and many more on a number of occasions.

### SUCCESSSES IN TAMIL NADU CRICKET TOURNAMENTS

Season	Trophy	Season	Trophy
1966-67	TNCA League	1981-82	The Hindu Trophy
1967-68	TNCA League	1983-84	The Hindu Trophy
1968-69	TNCA League	1986-87	The Hindu Trophy
1970-71	TNCA League	1987-88	The Hindu Trophy
1971-72	TNCA League	1992-93	The Hindu Trophy
1982-83	TNCA League	1994-95	The Hindu Trophy
1983-84	TNCA League	1996-97	The Hindu Trophy
1986-87	TNCA League	1999-2000	Final was not held
1990-91	TNCA League	2005-06	The Hindu Trophy
1999-00	TNCA League		
2000-01	TNCA League	2006-07	VAP Trophy
2001-02	League Final was not held	2007-08	VAP Trophy
2002-03	TNCA League	2008-09	VAP Trophy
2003-04	TNCA League	2009-10	VAP Trophy
2004-05	TNCA League	2011-12	VAP Trophy
2008-09	TNCA League		
2009-10	TNCA League	1991-92	YSCA Trophy
2012-13	TNCA League	2001-02	YSCA Trophy

### SUCCESSSES IN ALL INDIA CRICKET TOURNAMENTS

Season	Trophy	Season	Trophy
1993-94	Moin-ud-Dowla Cup	1991-92	Arlem Trophy
2000-01	Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup	1994-95	Arlem Trophy
2002-03	Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup		
2003-04	Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup	2005-06	Canara Bank Centenary Cup
2005-06	Moin-ud-Dowla Cup	2006-07	CCFS Calcutta Twenty20
2006-07	Moin-ud-Dowla Cup		
		2005-06	MCA Inter Corporate Tournament
1997-98	KSCA Trophy	2012-13	BCCI Inter Corporate Tournament
2001-02	KSCA Trophy		
2006-07	KSCA Trophy		

# 'Sanmar produces good cricketers, good people'.

- Saad bin Jung



Chemplast has produced not just cricketers alone, but wonderful human beings. This is possible only if a company has its house in order in many more ways than one. The company has striven hard to instill into each person the deep rooted spirit of cricket in the work place. And it's this custom that has created such a wonderful set of cricketer-gentlemen not to mention the delightful ethos in the workplace. "The achievements of an organisation are the results of the combined effort of each individual." That's what the company believes in and that's why it is able to deliver and meet with both internal as well as global expectations, year after year, irrespective of the state of the economy.

That's exactly what Kapil Dev did when he won the 1983 World Cup and put India on the international map of cricket. He took a bunch of really nice people who could play cricket, bound them together in a spirit of bonhomie and friendship and having set certain clear objectives, asked them to go enjoy themselves. The result was a World Cup victory. The Sanmar Group is pretty much the same. It's

a bunch of great people, supporting each other's weaknesses and feeding off their strengths, united by the incredible spirit as set out by Shri KS Narayanan the Chairman Emeritus of the Group. He passed away barely five months ago but his spirit binds and unites the group into a solid cohesive unit that continues to perform and excel in every department.

The Group's undying love for sport has seen it achieve many accolades. Under the able leadership of three generations of cricket lovers, KS Narayanan, N Sankar and N Kumar and with people of quality like Bharath Reddy in close support, The Sanmar Group has won the Palayampatti Shield, VAP, the Moin-ud-Dowla, KSCA, Corporate, Hindu, Buchi Babu, YSCA and Arlem trophies many times over, along with many others. This has been possible because the Group has recognised young talent and invested both time and money in it on a timely basis. Apart from supporting TNCA and the Madras Cricket Club for many decades now, the Group has established a system that scouts for talent and absorbs it in its embrace, moulding it with the best of cricket support in the form of a professionally managed team and excellent back-up support both on the field and off it. One only has to visit the IIT-Sanmar cricket ground to see the great facilities provided by the Group. It is a showpiece and arguably one of the best grounds in India. It offers four practice wickets and six center tracks offering varied playing surfaces.

Even the great Sachin Tendulkar remarked at seeing the ground, "The quality and atmosphere of the Sanmar cricket ground are excellent. I enjoyed playing in the ground nestled in the sylvan IIT Campus" with Sir Richard Hadlee adding to this praise saying, "The IIT-Sanmar Ground is an outstanding one, the pitches and pavilion there can compare with the best anywhere."

Cricket contracts, employment, good cricket grounds, an excellent pavilion, comfortable dressing rooms and trophies are synonymous with a dedicated set of people sharing the same vision, making it a challenge in their busy schedules to firstly hiring people of similar vision and then combining the united knowledge and efforts of each individual to ensure that the company achieve harmony and perfection; not perfection in the winning trophies sense but perfection in playing the game in the true spirit of the game sense. The trophies would come later.

In short The Sanmar Group has upheld and maintained the true spirit of India's incredible culture and traditions in its quest of continued growth and evolution both in the workplace and off it. Its management policies are a showpiece for the world to see, its people its trophies and the job has just begun.

*(One of the most talented batsmen not to have played for India, Saad bin Jung now writes regularly on cricket).*

The club used to take particular pride in spotting young players and grooming them into performing players



# Rovers, a jolly good Chennai team

**R. MOHAN**  
DECCAN CHRONICLE

**✓** Jolly Rovers, which for years been the premier cricket club of the city, will soon be celebrating its golden jubilee. That the club has won the Palayampatti shield 18 times is an indication of how it has been able to string together sustained team performances right through long seasons of city cricket. Team spirit is quite the byword at a club that has attracted the top talent right from the early days when players from Bengaluru used to be popular players and performers in Chennai.

It was in the salad days of Mr K.S. Narayanan, about the time he was just beginning to make a name as a major city industrialist, that the club was first sponsored by India Cements and then Chemplast Sanmar. The club used to take particular pride in spotting young players and grooming them into performing players even as they were given a career and job security to grow as men.

There is no prominent state player who has not turned out for the club but its huge success has not been dependent only on the stars. The bits-and-pieces men and club regulars who did not make it big on the first class scene were also solid contributors. The camaraderie running through the club also made it the place to be in as winning

all trophies possible was not the sole aim. The enjoyment of the game was something that was dinned into the club's players as the patrons were such keen followers of the game that they were always appreciative of good cricket, the tradition that Mr Narayanan set being followed by his sons N.Sankar and N. Kumar. From the days of KR Rajagopal and Najam Hussain, who were prominent 'imports' from Karnataka, right down to today, several Ranji stars form the backbone of the team. Such players helped raise the standards of their colleagues long before the

game became more professional in the city with senior division players also demanding appearance money from their clubs.

In the old days the keenest rivalry used to be between Jolly Rovers, State Bank and Alwarpet CC with matches between the giants drawing crowds of up to 2,000 for Sunday or weekend games. Today, Jolly Rovers' biggest rival is Vijay CC, curiously from the same parent company that was a pioneer of sponoring cricket, India Cements. The most recent win of Chemplast came in BCCI's Corporate trophy in which they beat arch rivals Vijay CC from Chennai.

### MILESTONES

The record of Jolly Rovers / Chemplast is quite stupendous as can be gleaned from the trophies won:

1. Palayampatti Shield – 18 times (5 times in a row from 2000, three times in the last 5 years);
2. VAP Trophy – 5 times in 8 years;
3. Moin-ud-Dowla Trophy – 6 times;
4. KSCA Trophy – 3 times;
5. BCCI Corporate Trophy – first time (February 2013);
6. Hindu Trophy – 8 times;
7. MCA corporate trophy – once;
8. Buchi Babu Trophy – 3 times;
9. Canara Bank Centenary – once;
10. Calcutta T20 Tournament – once and
11. YSCA Trophy – 2 times.

(Reproduced with permission from the Deccan Chronicle dated 13 Feb 2013).

# It's Safety Day across Sanmar locations

Every year 4 March is observed as National Safety Day in India and all Sanmar units kept up to this tradition this year as well.

In some locations, Safety Day was extended and a Safety Week was observed. Debates, skits on safety, training programmes, fire fighting demonstrations were conducted as part of the Safety Day. Safety essay, drawing, cartoon, crossword, and slogan contests were held and prizes distributed to winners.



**Mettur**



**Cuddalore**



**Vedaranyam**



**Karaikal**



## Panruti



Safety

## Viralimalai



## Berigai



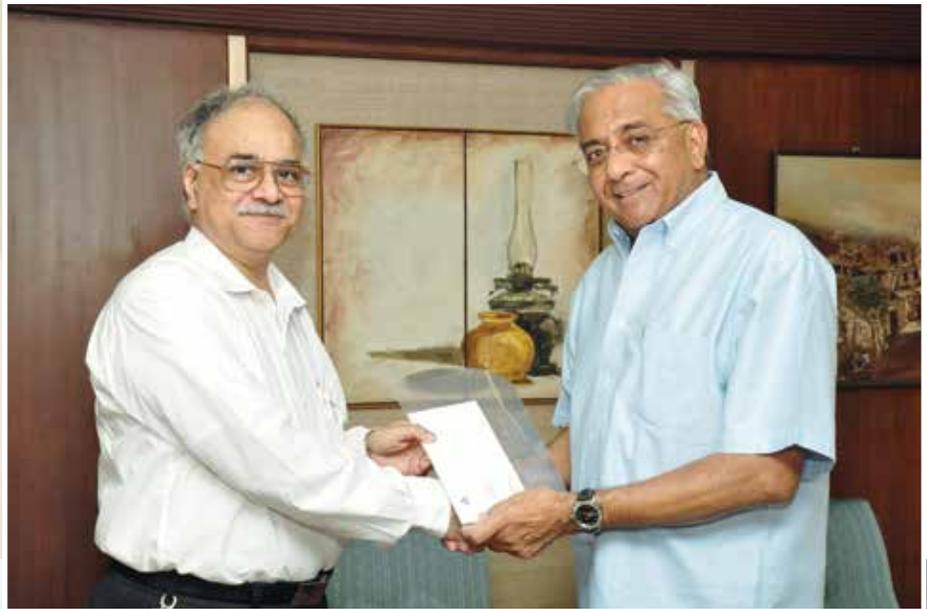
## Karapakkam



# Donation for ophthalmic research

N Sankar handed over a cheque for Rs 60 lakh to Dr TS Surendran, Vice Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, on 12 March 2013. The donation was

made for the cause of ophthalmic research to the Vision Research Foundation.



# Chemplast's CSR activities at Vedaranyam

Chemplast, Vedaranyam, contributed a cheque for Rs 6 lakh on 12 November 2012, for the purchase of land for construction of a community hall at Kodyakkadu. Mrs Bhavani Shanmugam, President, Kodyakkadu Panchayat, received the cheque.



Chemplast, Vedaranyam, donated towards installation of inverter to facilitate uninterrupted power supply to Maternity ward of Government Hospital, Vedaranyam, in December 2012. The contribution was made in the presence of Dr Akbar Ali and NV Kamaraj, MLA, Vedaranyam Constituency.



# Medical camp at Mettur

About eight hundred people benefited from a free medical camp organised by Chemplast at Mettur. Doctors from Chemplast, Dr D Valaiparameswaran and Dr S Saravanan oversaw the camp that was conducted in coordination with Gokulam Hospitals, Salem, on 10 February 2013.



# Pulse Polio programme at Mettur

A pulse polio programme was conducted at Mettur on 20 January 2013.



# Tailoring training for women

Chemplast Mettur organised a free training programme in tailoring for the rural women of Thangamapuripattinam, Mettur Dam, on 24 February 2013.



# CP Johnstone

(1895 - 1974)

No history of Tamil Nadu cricket can be complete without due acknowledgement of the pioneering role played by CP Johnstone in its development.

Conrad Powell Johnstone CBE was an Indian cricketer of British origin who led Madras Cricket Club in local cricket, Europeans in the Presidency Match and Madras in the Ranji Trophy during the 1930s. He was also President of the Madras Cricket Club in 1947.

Johnstone was born in Sydenham, London on 19 August 1895 and grew up in England, playing representative cricket for Rugby School, Cambridge University and Kent. (In the intervening years, he served in the Army during World War I and suffered two bullet wounds, one of them a narrow miss that almost took his life). He joined Cambridge in 1918 with his military gratuity, became a law graduate and earned university blues for both cricket and golf. With 78 runs, he topscored in the 1919 university match against Oxford and captained the Cambridge golf team that defeated Oxford in 1920. He played for Kent in 1919, when it finished runner-up in the county championship.

A major contribution by Johnstone to Indian sport was spotting and nurturing talent, often by way of jobs in Burmah Shell. Johnstone paved the way for many a young sportsman to pursue his sport with the livelihood security that a steady job provided,

pioneering this uniquely Madras institution of sports promotion through employment. His most famous recruit into Burmah-Shell was the double international MJ Gopalan whose hockey and cricket commanded huge fan following.

Johnstone was however more than a benefactor of sportsmen. He was an excellent all round cricketer himself, the first left hand batsman of the province to capture the imagination of its cricketing public. In 1926, he played for the first time in the Presidency Match-the annual contest between the Europeans and Indians which started in 1915-under the captaincy of HP Ward, and continued to represent the Europeans in that Pongal gala till its 1948 edition.

Johnstone straightaway made an impact on the Pongal match. He topscored with 135 for the Europeans that year. He and RB Carrick (107) were the stars of the Europeans' victory by 66 runs against some fine bowling by Bhaskar Rao and CR Ganapathi.

Johnstone (6 for 65 and 3 for 61) enjoyed bowling success in the Presidency match, next year, when he led the Europeans for the first time. Over the years, he became the most consistent European performer in the competition and its longest serving captain. Not only did he prove a successful captain on the field, he also managed cricket affairs in the province admirably as president of the Madras Cricket Association.

Later, Johnstone captained Madras in the Ranji Trophy, leading it to a remarkable triumph in the inaugural game versus Mysore in 1934, defeating the opponent in a single day's play.

Over six feet tall and broad shouldered, Johnstone was an attacking opening batsman, often dwarfing his partners like VN Madhava Rao and M Swaminathan. According to chronicler PN Sundaresan, Johnstone was extremely watchful of the new ball, but always alert for loose balls which he punished readily, favouring the off side more than the leg side. His defence too was seemingly impenetrable. Extremely nervous in his nineties, Johnstone never made a hundred in Ranji Trophy cricket.

Johnstone was a clever medium pace swing and seam bowler who could make important breakthroughs when his main bowlers failed to end long partnerships. He was also an astute leader of men, quite cerebral in his approach to captaincy, if somewhat aloof from his men. He had the uncanny knack of bringing out the best in the players, with quiet appreciation and firm leadership. He led by example in all the departments of the game.

Johnstone was also a magnificent slip fielder. His catch in that position to dismiss Keith Miller against the Australian Services team when he was past fifty, was "the best catch that ever dismissed me," according to the batsman himself. Lindsay Hassett the Australian captain, wrote, "His

slip fielding is astonishing. The catches with which he dismissed Pettiford and Miller would have done credit to a JM Gregory or a Wally Hammond.”

For all his dominance of Madras cricket for over two decades, Johnstone remained a fidgety player, especially at the start of his innings. In the words of NS Ramaswami, “For a fine innings from him, everything about him, not excluding the sightscreen, should be perfect, but do not great artists need a fine canvas to paint their best picture? On such a day, Johnstone would take arms against the most formidable bowling combination and score a fifty or a hundred in a nonchalant manner. But the slightest hitch anywhere affects his batting to such a degree that he would leave his wicket to a ball which he would normally send for a six or four. His batting is characterised by the spirit of adventure and he revels when his team has to score over 200 runs in about 90 minutes.”

As cricketer, captain and administrator-as president of the Madras Cricket Association-Johnstone always had the best interests of Madras cricket at heart. “His greatest contribution,” according to veteran journalist KS Narasimhan was, “cementing European-Indian relations, which threatened to break up due to the snobbishness of a few overzealous MCC members, more so after the control of the game was taken away from the Club and went to the new democratic Madras Cricket Association.”

Johnstone played a key role in the formation of the Board of

Control for Cricket in India, and also held numerous important public offices. The Chairman of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, he served other institutions like the Madras Club and the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association with distinction.

On his return to England in 1948, Johnstone was elected to the Kent county cricket committee and the club’s president in 1966. He stayed

in touch with Indian cricket by watching India on all its England tours. He died midway during the 1974 Lord’s Test between the two countries. He was remembered in Madras as a man with “an overriding love of cricket and of cricketers.” In the words of his son, Tony Johnstone, “Bringing people together and making friends through a shared love of cricket was his fulfillment.”



